Rules for Photographers at the Arboretum

Below are the rules and regulations to be followed by ALL photographers while shooting photos anywhere at the Arboretum. ALL wedding parties, professional photographers and members working with professional photographers for family or graduation photographs need to purchase a Photographer Special Use Permit through the reservations office (952-443-1411). ALL non-commercial, nature photographers must also follow the rules as listed for their category of amateur, non-commercial photographers.

• All Professional Photographers must have a Photographer Special Use Permit purchased through the Arboretum’s Reservation office. The cost of an annual permit is $225. A daily permit is $75. Annual and daily badges will beat the information desk and must be displayed at all times while on the premises. The permit allows photographers to bring in up to 15 clients per day with no gate fee charged provided the photo session is scheduled with the reservations office by noon the business day before the session.

• Wedding Photography. Weddings held at the Arboretum are able to schedule an engagement photo session with the Reservations office and take photos on the day of their wedding for no additional fees. For weddings hosted at other locations, the wedding party will need to confirm that their photographer holds an annual photographer permit or purchase a daily photographer permit with the reservations office. Only three (3) daily photographer permits will be scheduled on one day. Please call ahead, 952-443-1411, to make arrangements. The daily photographer permit must be completed by noon the business day before the photo session. Regular gate fees ($12/person) apply to guests numbering more than 15 in the wedding party/or accompanying the photographer.

• Commercial Photography. A site fee is charged for commercial photography on the grounds. Advance permission is required and arranged through the reservations office. The Arboretum does not endorse products or services. Photographs that imply endorsement are prohibited.

• Non-commercial Photographers taking pictures for their own personal use and not for profit are allowed to use the Arboretum as designated by their level of membership. No reservation is necessary.

• Stay On Paths. All persons and equipment must stay on pathways. No one is allowed to walk, stand or place tripods in planted areas or bare soil. Planted areas include fields or grass that is not mowed, wood chipped or paved. Anyone discovered in these areas will be escorted from the grounds. No exceptions.

• Keep Pathways Free. While shooting during public hours, photographers cannot block off any area. Tripods should be set up on only half of the pathway to allow safe and easy passage for all visitors passing. Photographers and participants should encourage visitors to walk by between poses.

• Do Not Disturb Plants. No plants shall be tied up or modified in any manner with pins, tape, twine, etc. Do not move or change position of potted plants, or remove signs/labels from planted areas.

• Get Permission. ALL photographers require permission at the gate, information desk, reservations office to take photographs on site. Lighting equipment which requires cords and external power sources or outside props such as drop cloths, panels, etc. cannot be used without prior to permission.